



ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An aqueous ambient dry decorative or protective coating comprising a film forming matrix polymer of an aqueous emulsion polymer of aqueous copolymerized ethylenically unsaturated monomers modified with at least 3% by weight of a low molecular weight oligomer of copolymerized hydroxy alkanolic acid having 2 to 4 carbon atoms having a number average molecular weight between 300 and 10,000 to provide a film forming binder substantially free of volatile organic coalescing solvents. Preferred oligomers are homopolymers and copolymers of polymerized lactic acid or polymerized glycolic acid.